

March 27, 2009
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(St. Louis, Mo.) -- Today, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) announced the release of \$337 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to expand services offered at 1,128 community health centers nationwide including more than \$2,400,000 in funding for the St. Louis area. The money was made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which Congressman Carnahan supported and President Barack Obama signed into law earlier this year.

The following St. Louis area health centers are receiving funding:

Family Care Health Centers, \$355,188

Grace Hill Neighborhood Health Centers, Inc., \$772,465

Myrtle Hilliard Davis Comprehensive Health Centers, Inc., \$609,172

People's Community Health Center, \$666,589

“Community health centers provide an important role when families are having more difficulty than ever making ends meet,” said Congressman Carnahan. **“Untreated illnesses and disease increase the cost of health insurance for all Americans; we must continue making health care accessible and affordable.”**

With these new funds, health centers will be able to provide care to an additional 2 million people, half of whom have no health insurance. More than 16 million Americans rely on health centers to keep them healthy, even if they can't afford to pay for their care.

“Today health centers are treating more and more patients,” said Carnahan. **“As we work to dig out of this economic recession and put people back to work we must ensure that those in need of care have access to it.”**

Grantees submitted plans explaining how the IDS funds would be used. Strategies to expand services may include, but are not limited to, adding new providers, expanding hours of operations or expanding services.

The IDS awards are the second set of health center grants provided through the Recovery Act. On March 2, President Obama announced grants worth \$155 million to establish 126 new health centers. Those grants will provide access to health center care for 750,000 people in 39 states and two territories.

To find a health center near you or to learn more about health centers, visit <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/>.

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